Dedham Aug. 14. 1842.

My Dear Friend:

Your long & welcome letter of Saturday evening last arrived a few days ago & stayed some gentle promptings in which I had been indulging at the first moment in which you permitted me to direct as to the Plimpton Celebration & other matters of moment. I sit down to answer it rather in compliance with your request & in hopes of another epistle than because I have anything to tell. As to our Pick Nick (The old Nick take Collins' Cacography!) I can say with the keeper-finder story! God bless you, I have none to tell, naiam!" - at least nothing that is not an old story now. I presume you have ere now received my note to Mavia, which you supposed when you wrote to be going to dress upon the earth in the box of the Plymouth Stage-coach. If so you will not need to be informed that the "Community" came upon the ground in a hay-cart with their brows bound with wreaths of oak leaves - the men in blouses - to the no small astonishment and edification of the honest cordwainers & farmers of whom the company was chiefly made up, who marvelled greatly in their minds what manner of men these might be. Their costume, however, added to the picturesque of the scene decidedly. Mrs Fallen was displeased with them for coming in this mumming attire, thinking that it showed insensibility to the great idea of the day; but I saw no great harm in it. Stomp, to be sure, it would have been as well not to assume their "victorious wreaths" until they had done something towards fighting the battle. I am sorry to say that your confident expectation that they improved the opportunity to say something memorable, however well founded in reason, was not fulfilled in part. For not a one of a dozen of 'em

would open his lips – not even Leach. The eye was the only sense which this vision Divine consented to gratify. I do not think we have anything to hope from them – especially since that old renegade Lehabod Norton (truly the glory hath departed from the house of the old Secretary) is going to settle among them. You ask why Parker was not there? Where he was – but refused to speak. Alas! how long & difficult is the process by which a Unitarian Minister is transformed into a Man! He pleaded illness, however – so we will extend his time of probation a little longer – though I do not think five minutes talking would have hurt him, had his heart been in the matter. I intend to invite him to deliver an A. S. lecture here sometime which will be a pretty good test of his present state. As to any one speech I can hardly tell you what it was, as it was literally extemporé only I know it was to the point – which is more than I can say for most of the others – but they were good A. S. speeches & doubtless did as much good to the pro-slavery part of the audience as if they had been mute to the purpose for which we were assembled. I do not think there was any such happy augury of favoring winds as that Wendell's sacrifice. But perhaps it was (according to the gloss of the Port when relating that portent) because there were no birds, young enough to be caught with chaff. Downers appearance amongst us certainly excited more surprise than pleasure. He was treated civilly but nothing more. When he suggested to me that he thought of speaking I gave him no encouragement whatever but the speaking being free he had as good a right to the platform as anybody. But though he certainly did act with decency & respect for him by coming where he might have known he was not wanted, I must still think Hemingway's comparison of the abolitionists & his whole allusion to him exceedingly gross & rude & deserving of rebuke. The invitation, as he says, was to Abolitionists – but then every one was to decide for himself as to his Abolitionism – & if Dennison chose to consider himself an Abolitionist and came as such, and behaved himself with propriety (as he certainly did) – he was entitled to civil treatment both at the time & in the account of the proceedings. But in the letters which I sent to the neighboring towns to urge the friends to come to the Rail (one of which D. might have seen) I begged them to bring with them not

merely "technical" Abolitionists, but to go out into the highways & hedges & compel the proslavery people if they would to come with them. And this they did. I suppose one half at least of the nine or six hundred on the ground were not committed abolitionists - many absolutely opposed - and this is what we want at all our public meetings - & should be careful to say & do nothing that looks like a wish to be exclusive. The men & place among the New Organization (among whom I apprehend Denison is not to be numbered) will never molest us - and as to the simple ones they should be rather encouraged to come (I do not include D. among these last epithets for we need not necessarily be simple though a fool.). I am well aware of your proximity against New Organizations & do not know but you verdict on Jeremiah's article would be 'Sacred Bible right' & that you may have repetted my letter in the Lib: about it; but I am jealous of our reputation for good breeding as well as for justice. Moreover the feeling of indignation here was so strong on the subject that something would have been said & done about it - and perhaps by placing the matter on the ground of a violation of hospitality has saved Denison from some direct or indirect glorification.

Last Lundays (7th) I had the pleasure of a visit from James Boyle. The night before on returning from a walk with some friends who were staying with me, I found a note from Collins, informing me that they had gone on to Dea. Rapids as I was out. As soon as I could I followed them, & of course found Boyle a totally different-looking man from what I had expected - as unlike the exterior & manners of what you would suppose him to be from his writings as Governor is found to be. From him & them I learned how B. had been rescued like a brand from the burning by Collins & brought away safely between the very paws of Levit Smith & Deming Jackson and moreover the excellent prospects of Old Org. in Newyork. At the close of the evening Stock Boyle came with me. Knowing the views of my colleagues - ment I had purposely staid at the worthy ex-deacons as long as I well could that their possible offers might be over before we arrived - wishing to present him with the first Anti-Slavery roof Boyle had lodged under in New Eng: & present him with a serious & well-ordered aspect. But, alas! what are the hopes of man! As soon as I opened the hall-door I heard

cabalistic sounds which told my prophetic heart that I was too soon. Like Swift's lady friends when they went to hear of his death

"Alas!" they cried in doleful dumps
"I lead an ace — pray, what are trumps?"

And ~~upon entering~~ when I entered into the drawing-room followed by my friend who had entered into rest, there they all were playing whist like dragons! He sustained the blow with becoming fortitude — though he did look a little shook'd at the phenomenon. As I well know (knowledge which I owe to my Andover education) the holy horror which is instilled into the minds of all who undergo a "serious" education, of "the devil, picture-books," I duly roused the self-command which enabled him to sit quietly by while the abominable thing was going on without a Tostorian testimony. It may possibly cause some confusion in his head as to the standard of morality among New Eng.d abolitionists. He will probably expect to be saluted with a volley of oaths when he makes his first appearance in Lumm -stoat, and not be surprised to hear his coffee d—d with regard to its size. Garrison once bore a testimony to me about cards & dice — but I gave him to understand that there is a point in every one's experience beyond which endurance ceases to be a virtue & which it is not wise to pass. Church & state, ordinances, ministry, Sabbath — these are things which I readily give up to him to do with them whatever seemeth good in his sight — but let him keep his hands off ~~#~~ Whist & Backgammon! At least as long as winter evenings continue to be long — and evening visitors to be dull. I have stood aloof every thing — the Woman Question, the Church, Sabbath & Ministry questions — even the Son Question, which was too much for the silver tongued Lerucha, I believe I could endure — but, if it be agitated, I shall certainly leave — by reason of the Whist Question. — Well, the next day one went to a Come Outer meeting held in a room at Worthington, consisting of those who have left the other churches — particularly Dr. Burgess. About thirty persons were assembled, which, considering it was but the second time of meeting & a hard rain into the bargain, I think was doing pretty well. W. Guild (Rev. M. S Son-in-law)

opinion was on the wrong side. The caricature represented Bentley in the Bull of Phalaris, with the words issuing from his mouth "I had rather be baked than Boyled". The next morning Boyle departed with Collins for New Bedford and I saw him no more. I was very favorably impressed with him. His manners & address are modest & gentle - he seems to be full of zeal in the Cause is well informed & seems to have pretty ~~extensive~~ extensive & correct education. I wonder what Anne thinks of his employment as a Massachusetts agent. Do you remember how she strove against his appointment as Non Resistant Agent? Ah! that Perfectionism is a damnable heresy - it is next to Universalism! Boyle seemed to doubt that Garrison was ~~on~~ the right sort of Perfectionist - but they are two kindred spirits & will most likely be of one mind before they separate.

As to the resurrection of the Non Resistant next month - great is thy faith! I think that you wish to provide one occasional editorial must have stimulated your hope. At the time of the Annual Meeting it will have been in a state of suspended animation for three months & will require somewhat more than two hundred dollars to bring it up & date & as much more to carry it on to the end of the year - and there must be a larger gathering & more money on hand than there has been at former meetings to do anything like it. My thought is to make over the whole concern to Adin Ballou & have it united with the Practical Christian. I want the N.R. to live - but I do most heartily desire to be released from editing it. Should it revive I can tell you: you'll all be set to work writing editorials for the back No's. My Philosophy is this, as long as the paper was wanted it was supported - it took support from either that people have got tired of & that something else has supplied its place - either of which considerations makes it entirely ~~certain~~ certain that it should stop. I think my theories & actions & opinions, real & supposed, have caused the loss of some

to wax cold. If it revive I shall rejoice as a Ben Jonsonist - if it do not, I shall not be sorry as an editor. As a Ben Jonsonist I mourn over its downfall - as a man I rejoice at it - "the father of the play, but the governor is fierce."

I have been reading nothing newer than Ben Jonson & Cato - whom I had not looked into before since I left College. I delight in reading him for his dramatic skill & accurate learning but especially for the pictures he gives of life in Eng^d in the latter days of Elizabeth & the first of James. He introduces you into the households of those old days & makes you acquainted with the manners the mode of living, eating, drinking, dressing, making love & breaking heads. ~~[illegible]~~ They are fine pictures of the phase of human nature which his times presented. He is coarse in his language at times to be sure, but that was the way people talked in those days. And when he says the scene in another age & with historical characters, he is almost pedantically accurate. His "Sejanus" for instance gives you a notion of the court & times of Tiberius such as you could not get without a close study of the historians & poets who treat of or allude to those terrible times. ≈ I cannot possibly agree to like Emma (Woodhouse - not Overton) whose ears I long to box (in a moral & spiritual sense) from her first appearance on the stage. Her vile sarcasms about Jane Fairfax & her friends husband & then telling Frank Churchill of them - & her envious neglect of Jane - & the way in which she makes Harriet Smith treat the Martins! I do not deny that it is natural and would not abate the character on any account, but it should have been made a secondary one & not that in which

opened the meeting with prayer & reading of the Bible
& then it was announced that the meeting was open for
remarks from any one. After a short pause Warren Allen,
& Walpole, who had come over for the express purpose,
proceeded to lecture some of his tediousness upon us.
He is a worthy old man - unhappy only in a false conceit
that he has the gift of tongues - who contrives to utter sentences,
for any given time, of an involution & obscurity which Oliver
Cromwell himself might have envied. He stopped, however,
at last, and Boyle rose and proceeded to address the
assembly on the Spiritual & Inward character of Christianity.
In the course of his discourse he naturally touched upon
the Church, ministry, ordinances &c which he treated in a
very calm & mild manner, & so as I thought could not
give offence. Such however was not the case - for when
we came together in the afternoon three of the leading
brethren were among the missing - having been too much
scandalized in the morning to risk a repetition of the
offence. And lucky it was they were - for Boyle thinks,
as he said, that he had not been fully understood in the
morning, entered into some explanations, which, if
not like the Interpreter in the Critic "the harder he
understood of the two" - were certainly the harder to be
borne. And when he had done, as if there babes who
had just escaped from Dr. B.'s leading strings had not
had strong meat enough for one day, Collins must
needs get up and give them a good dish of Theism
by way of dessert. I rather think, however, that most of
them did not know what it was he was giving
them, and perhaps took it all for good sound

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Andover doctrine – and, in good sooth, it was about as unintelligible. It (being no plot of mine) was great sport to me, to see these two bomb-shells bursting in the midst of this harmless assembly. For it so happened that this meeting was got up without any knowledge of mine – and though this might be partly accidental – still I cannot but think that there was a willingness that I should not appear prominently in the affair & make it unnecessarily odious with my brethren. This I heartily rejoice at, because while I am free from the cant of trouble & responsibility. The men I do not believe are prepared for a free meeting – some of the women are. If they were not frightened from their propriety last Lord's day, I think they may make a little lord's day-dom Chapel of ease, with some degree of freedom, which will be of no particular advantage to themselves, but will be a thorn in the side of the prophesying Churches. W. Guild, who was designed for the trade of a priest, will probably be their minister in effect. I am desirous of doing nothing to interfere with their success, on Antinomian grounds, and therefore think the best thing I can do for them is to stay away from them. Accordingly I am here writing nonsense to you instead of taking part in their solemn services. And, moreover, these brethren are compounded hard & have no bowels to them. Some of them, however, I apprehend will be frightened by Dr. Burgess's fold. They may think as the caricature of Dr. Beattie said which was got up by the college wags at the time of the famous Controversy between him and Hoyle about the Apocryphal Letters of Phalaris on which occasion, as in others before & since, public

our interest is expected to centre. She should have stood alongside of the Elton's - of whom she has not so much the advantage as she thinks. I guess Fairfax. I admit, need a good deal of bringing forward to be made the heroine, as she is purposely pushed into the back ground, but I maintain that there is some element of interest about her & Emma is properly worked up, & that she would better deserve to be rewarded by marrying the hero & having a coach & six, all very fine.

This Stearns, of the Community, told me the other day that C.W. Greene & his wife were married by a regular priest - Mr. Hall - after all. Moreover, that they had two sets of cards, one for the Saints & the other for the world's people & that the Ed. Albert Sarah Anna Greene & the other for the world's people & that the Superscription was "Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Greene"! Such is the end & perfection of Spiritualism. I should not wonder to hear that he had gone into the army again. By way of per contra I would say, however, that Colling told me that Whiting was at some Anti-Slavery Meeting & Plymouth & I think, and seemed to have got over his ill temper and to be as of old time. He told me also that he had had a letter from Lucian Russell saying that "now the Bishop's Madness was over they were all ready to go to work as of old for the Mass. Society." - Good so Foster has taken to field preaching. What about is true - the one that he was stopped by the police, & the other that he made a good speech? - And what is the meaning of that paragraph in the Courier that the New Bedford meeting was broken up by a mob - Please explain. They got beyond mobbing there eh? You all once promised me a Mob when I went to lecture there two times and after all disappointed me - so. I did think it their shabby of them now. If there is any private history about it pray let me know it. - You asked me for two sheets - Pho! You are cursed with your prolixity. May this find you in some secluded & solitude where you have nothing more enlivening to read than Zimmerman or Hervey! The weather seems to be trying to clear off - like a child trying to be good & stop crying - and I hope it may succeed. I trust Henry & Wm will get a complete rest. You need not fear Parker preaching from home as there is nobody, almost, that will exchange with him - only he told me Mr. Stearns was to do so a mi Sunday this month. I'll find out when & let you know & will also take you down & hear him, if I am at home. I shall be at Cambridge Commencement week & shall take Sarah. Write soon & don't fear that your letters are not always very welcome.

Good afternoon. Mary & Sarah Lunday to visit Waterbury. Have gone to Hartford to see Mrs. Hosmer.

E Quincy
1842

Miss Caroline Weston.
at H. G. Chapman's
39 Summer Street
Boston.

Ms. N 93.17.89